

rediscover it, though somewhat strange that it should have remained unrecognised all these years.

Although I have not met with this form up to the present in the Giza Province it probably occurs there, and I insert it in the present paper, as I consider that it is of importance to call attention to this long unrecognised bird. During the winter I have never met with any Hoopoes in the Province, but all those obtained while passing through during the migration-seasons—when they are very abundant—belong to the small race.

[To be continued.]

XXV.—*Notes on a Collection of Birds made in British East Africa.* By GERARD H. GURNEY, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

WITH the combined objects of shooting big game and collecting birds, I left England for East Africa on December 26th, 1908, and after an uneventful voyage arrived at Mombasa on January 15th, 1909. After spending three days there I went, with Sir Edmund Loder (himself a good naturalist and a splendid shot), by train to Nairobi. Our original intention had been to go on a shooting-trip to the little-known Lake Natron; but, finding that this plan was, for several reasons, impracticable, we decided first of all to make an expedition to the Kauti Plains. So after all the necessary arrangements for a long expedition into the interior had been made, we started in an easterly direction from Nairobi and marched across the Athi Plains to the Athi River as far as Donio Sabuk; thence we turned to the left, recrossed the Athi River, and proceeded over the Kauti Plains nearly as far as Mount Twiniango. Then we retraced our steps, and followed for some days the Thika River, which we finally crossed near Vroni. We came back by the east side of Donio Sabuk, returning to Nairobi on February 17th. Three days later, by the advice of Mr. F. J. Jackson, I went up to Naivasha, where I spent four weeks, chiefly camping at the south end of the lake and on the west

side of the Ndabibi Plains. Leaving Naivasha on March 19th I joined Sir Alfred Pease at his Ostrich-farm at Kallima Theki, fifteen miles from Kapiti Plains Station, and remained there until I sailed for England on April 30th, having made, however, in the meantime, two short collecting-expeditions to Bondoni and Kibwezi.

So many papers have been lately written on British East Africa and so much of it is now well known that I need say but little concerning the aspect of the various parts of the continent into which I went. Our several expeditions enabled me to collect in three totally different and distinct types of country which in their fauna and flora shew most marked changes, broadly resolving themselves into open plain country, bush country, and forest.

I was accompanied by Mr. P. Groves, an experienced taxidermist, and with his assistance formed a collection of birds, including nearly 600 skins of 232 species. Many of these were prepared under difficulties, more especially during our first trip, when we were continually moving camp; however, the majority of the skins reached England in first-rate condition.

In addition to collecting birds and shooting big game I brought home with me a large number of butterflies in papers, besides numerous small mammals and reptiles and a number of live birds, which I caught in traps taken out for the purpose or which the natives snared for me. Amongst these was a fine specimen of *Centropus superciliosus*, which had not previously been brought alive to England.

It is very difficult to successfully combine big-game shooting and scientific bird-collecting—one spoils the other,—and I invariably found that when out stalking an Antelope or a Rhinoceros I was certain to see and yet be unable to shoot *the* bird which I had been on the look out for so long. *Vice versa*, when collecting birds, without doubt *the* beast with the finest head would always appear. On our first safari the greater part of the birds obtained were shot as we were riding along in the early morning from one camp to another, when it was more or less the rule *not* to shoot at any game unless the whole caravan, as occasionally happened,

was "held up" by an angry rhinoceros; and birds were often shot, especially Weavers and smaller Warblers, which I did not know; these after being skinned were at once packed away, and I was unable to take any notes of their habits even if we came across the species again. This accounts for so many forms being represented by only single specimens in the collection. We would often get to a splendid locality for birds and be only able to stop there one night, when we required a week at least.

The following notes are on the birds which were actually obtained; many other species were seen, but when not satisfactorily identified I have made no mention of them. I am sure that there is still a great deal of good ornithological work to be done in this most fascinating and beautiful part of East Africa, especially in the wide belt of forest-country extending inland from Mombasa and the coast for some twelve or fourteen miles, and also in the large tract of little-known country to the west of Lake Naivasha, on the fringe of which I camped and where I found many birds which I had not seen before.

Well-worked though the country has lately been, I feel sure there are new forms and possibly new species still to be discovered.

1. *CORVULTUR ALBICOLLIS*. White-necked Raven.

*Corvultur albicollis* Less.

Iris brown; bill brown; feet brownish black.

The White-necked Raven was plentiful all round Theki, while at our camp at Bondoni several would come every evening and sit on a dead tree quite close to the tents and were tame and confiding; a pair had taken up their quarters on a small rocky kopje near Theki, and twice flew out of a little cave at the top: they may have been breeding, but it was impossible to get into the cave to see if there was a nest.

2. *HETEROCORAX CAPENSIS*. African Rook.

*Heterocorax capensis* Licht.

Iris dark brown; bill and legs black.

Specimens of the African Rook were obtained at Naivasha; it was seen nowhere else.



3. BUPHAGA ERYTHORRHYNCHA. Red-billed Oxpecker.

*Buphaga erythrorhyncha* (Stanl.).

Iris red, eyelids yellow; bill red; legs dark brown.

The Red-billed Oxpecker seemed to abound wherever there were cattle, and might always be seen running over them to hunt for insects; the cattle generally appeared to enjoy being relieved of the pests which infested them.

4. DILOPHUS CARUNCULATUS. Wattled Starling.

*Dilophus carunculatus* Rüpp.

Iris hazel-brown; bill light yellow; feet flesh-coloured.

The Wattled Starling did not appear to be very common and was shy and difficult to approach, flying from bush to bush as we got near. I saw it near the Athi River, and in the tall trees near the Native Reserve at Kallima Theki there were a few pairs.

5. SPREO SUPERBUS. Spreo Starling.

*Spreo superbus* (Rüpp.).

Iris yellow; bill and legs black.

The Spreo Starling was seen in large flocks along the Athi River; at sunset the birds would fly noisily into the thorn-bushes near our camp, and after a good deal of fuss and quarrelling would settle down to roost for the night. A pair were breeding in April in the fence surrounding one of the ostrich-paddocks at Theki; the nest was constructed of grass and small sticks, with the hole at the side. There were four eggs, very round in shape and of a beautiful clear blue-green colour.

6. LAMPROCOLIUS CHALYBEUS. Common Glossy Starling.

*Lamprocolius chalybeus* (Ehr.).

Iris yellow; bill and legs black.

This species was obtained at Naivasha, where it was common, and might generally be seen in pairs walking about the rough ground in front of the hotel, presumably hunting for insects; I have no notes of having observed it anywhere else.



## 7. LAMPROCOLIUS SYCOBIUS. Peters's Glossy Starling.

*Lamprocolius sycobius* Hartl.

Iris golden-yellow; bill and legs black.

We found Peters's Glossy Starling frequenting the thickly wooded hills of the Athi; only two specimens were obtained, both males. It has a variety of notes, some of which are very pleasing.

## 8. PHOLIDAUGES VERREAUXI. Verreaux's Glossy Starling.

*Pholidauges verreauxi* Bocage.

Iris yellow; bill and legs black.

Verreaux's Glossy Starling was only seen at Bondoni, where a single female was obtained on March 24th; the bird was sitting by itself at the bottom of a small dry donga in the middle of the plain, rather a remarkable place for this species; a male was seen, but not obtained, near our camp on the following day. It appears to be rather a rare species.

## 9. ORIOLUS GALBULA. Golden Oriole.

Specimens of the Golden Oriole were shot at Kallima Theki at the end of March; it was not very common and was met with nowhere else.

## 10. ORIOLUS ROLLETI. Black-headed Oriole.

*Oriolus rolleti* Salvad.

Iris reddish; bill dull pink; legs dark brown.

The Black-headed Oriole was locally common. I met with it at Naivasha and at Kibwezi; it was always in pairs and was very shy, invariably inhabiting the tall thick trees at the edges of small woods. I watched the male displaying one day with great interest. I was concealed amongst a grove of large trees of *Ficus* in which I knew were at least one pair of *O. rolleti*; after I had waited motionless for a very long time, the female flew out to the end of a bough in full view of the spot where I lay hidden, and presently began to utter a low call-note; the male bird then appeared and sidled along the bough; when he got close to the hen he expanded his tail, and with his head low and wings quivering made little darts at her; after a minute or two he sidled

back along the bough and then began to softly whistle the most melodious notes, the hen all the time busily preening herself. What would have happened next I cannot tell, as I made a slight movement, and both birds at once flew off into thick cover.

11. VIDUA PRINCIPALIS. Pin-tailed Whydah.

*Vidua principalis* (L.).

Iris brown; bill pink; legs brown.

Small flocks of Pin-tailed Whydahs were seen, always in the vicinity of water; one male appeared to be accompanied by about fifteen females. They are fond of sitting on the tops of tall reeds, and the males look very funny when the wind catches their extraordinary tails and blows them about, so that they only keep their perches with difficulty. Of the four males obtained three were in full breeding-plumage.

12. PENTHETRIA LATICAUDA. Red-naped Whydah.

*Penthetria laticauda* (Licht.).

Iris brown; bill black; legs brown.

The Red-naped Whydah was only obtained near the native shambas in the Reserve at Kallima Theki, and was by no means common there; on April 12th two males were shot which were both in mottled plumage.

13. DREPANOPECTES JACKSONI. Jackson's Whydah.

*Drepanoptes jacksoni*, Sharpe.

Bill pale brown; iris brown; legs brown.

Jackson's Whydah was very common at Naivasha and a long series was obtained, the males varying enormously in the extent of the development of the breeding-plumage; by March 9th the majority were in nearly full dress, though on the 12th I shot two males out of one flock, one of which was still entirely in its mottled brown plumage, while the other was in very nearly full breeding-plumage. Parties of forty or fifty females were generally accompanied by seven or eight males. This species makes rather remarkable playing-grounds for itself, though I only saw the *males* using them; each playground is round and generally rather more than two

feet across; the grass is completely trampled down except for a tuft which is left standing in the middle. It is a most extraordinary sight to see the males in full breeding-plumage with a tail a foot long performing in these dancing-grounds. They begin by scratching with their feet in the ground, and make the earth fly out beneath their tails, which they hold straight up, almost touching the back of their heads; in this position they have a ridiculous similarity to little cocks; they then spring into the air four or five times with quivering wings and feathers much puffed out; after a short rest the whole performance is repeated.

14. *PYROMELANA XANTHOMELANA*. Black-thighed Weaver-Finch.

*Pyromelana xanthomelana* (Rüpp.).

Iris dusky brown; bill brown; feet reddish-brown.

We shot the Black-thighed Weaver-Finch on the hills behind Theki; it was not uncommon, but I did not observe it anywhere else.

15. *PYROMELANA CAPENSIS*. Black-and-Yellow Weaver-Finch.

*Pyromelana capensis* Sharpe.

Iris dark brown; bill whitish; feet brown.

A single male of this species was shot at Naivasha on February 23rd; it was not obtained again.

16. *PLOCEIPASSER MELANORHYNCHUS*. Black-billed Weaver-Finch.

*Ploceipasser melanorhynchus* Rüpp.

Iris brown; bill black; legs brown.

Black-billed Weaver-Finches were common at two or three of our camps on the Athi River; they were very noisy, and at one place we found a large colony of their nests hanging from branches of small acacia-trees; these were big untidy structures made of fine grass; none of them contained eggs, though the birds were observed haunting the nests.



17. PHILETÆRUS ARNAUDI. Arnaud's Sociable Waxbill.  
*Philetærus arnaudi* (Bonap.).

Iris dark brown; bill black; feet pale.

Arnaud's Sociable Waxbill was only seen on one occasion, when a single male was shot from the top of a tall tree on March 17th at Nairobi.

18. QUELEA ÆTHIOPICA. Ethiopian Red-billed Weaver-Finch.

*Quelea æthiopica* (Sundev.).

Iris brown; bill deep red; legs brown.

Specimens of the Ethiopian Red-billed Weaver-Finch were obtained at Kibwezi; it was not observed anywhere else.

19. HYPOCHÆRA ULTRAMARINA. Ultramarine Finch.

*Hypochæra ultramarina* (Gm.).

Iris brown; bill pinkish-white; legs orange-red.

In my experience the Ultramarine Finch was a rare bird; the only specimen obtained was sitting on the top of the thorn bonga round a native village near Kallima Theki, and proved to be a male in full plumage.

20. MUNIA CANICEPS. Grey-headed Silver-bill.

*Munia caniceps* Salvad.

Iris brown; bill and legs black.

A male of this species was shot at the Gerei River on April 14th. We saw it nowhere else.

21. ESTRILDA MINOR. Lesser Amaduvade.

*Estrilda minor* (Cab.).

Iris brown; bill red; feet black.

The Lesser Amaduvade was abundant and was met with in dense packs numbering from twenty to a hundred: it was generally seen in the vicinity of water. Specimens were obtained on the Athi River, at Naivasha and near Kibwezi.

22. ESTRILDA ANGOLENSIS. Blue-breasted Waxbill.

*Estrilda angolensis* Linn.

Iris hazel; bill lightish lilac-coloured; legs brown.

The beautiful little Blue-breasted Waxbill was found

amongst the native shambas near Theki, but not at all commonly, and only two examples were obtained, both females.

23. GRANATINA IANTHINOGASTER. Violet-eared Waxbill.

*Uræginthus ianthinogaster* Reichen.

Iris and eyelids red; bill red; legs black.

I shot the Violet-eared Waxbill at Naivasha and at Kallima Theki: at the latter place there were generally three or four pairs in the fence round the Ostrich boma. They were charmingly tame and confiding, but I do not think that they were breeding when I was there in April.

24. SPOROPIPES FRONTALIS. Speckled-fronted Weaver-Finch.

*Sporopipes frontalis* Bp.

Iris light brown; bill pink; legs and feet flesh-coloured.

A single male was obtained at Nairobi on March 22nd. I have no note of seeing it anywhere else.

25. MELANOTIS ANOPLIXIS. Black-eared Scarlet Weaver-Finch.

*Melanotis anoplexis* (Lafr.).

Iris brown; bill red; legs dusky red.

We shot the Black-eared Scarlet Weaver-Finch only in one place on the Athi River: a pair were in the tops of some tall acacia-trees near our camp on January 30th, and the following day we saw another bird in the same place.

26. HETERHYPHANTES REICHENOWI. Reichenow's Weaver-Finch.

*Heterhyphantes reichenowi* (Fischer).

Iris cream-coloured; beak black; legs brownish.

Reichenow's Weaver-Finch was obtained at Nairobi and Naivasha.

27. SITAGRA OCULARIA. Smith's Weaver-Finch.

*Sitagra ocularia* (Gray).

Iris brown; bill black; feet brown.

Smith's Weaver-Finch was not at all uncommon at Naivasha and the series of three males and two females in

the collection were all obtained there. They did not appear to live in the forest, but I often saw them right out on the plain, pecking about on the ground or sitting in the little bare thorn-trees which were scattered about.

28. *HYPHANTORNIS RUBIGINOSUS*. Rüppell's Chestnut Weaver-Finch.

*Hyphantornis rubiginosus* (Rüpp.).

Iris brown ; bill black ; legs dark brown.

I think Rüppell's Chestnut Weaver-Finch is a decidedly rare bird. I only saw it once at Kibwezi, where a single male was obtained.

29. *HYPHANTORNIS SPEKII*. Speke's Weaver-Finch.

*Hyphantornis spekii* Heugl.

Iris pale yellow ; bill and legs brown.

A female Speke's Weaver-Finch was shot at Nairobi.

30. *PASSER RUFICINCTUS*. Kordofan Sparrow.

*Passer ruficinctus* Fischer & Reichen.

Iris pale yellow ; bill horn-coloured ; legs dusky brown.

The Kordofan Sparrow was obtained at Naivasha and at Kallima Theki ; at the latter place it was extremely abundant and as ubiquitous and friendly as its common relation in England.

31. *SORELLA EMINI*. Emin's Sparrow.

*Sorella emini* Hartl.

Iris brown ; bill dusky brown ; legs pale brown.

Emin's Sparrow was only seen at one place on the Gerei River, and where two males and a female were obtained on April 8th : it does not appear to be at all a common bird.

32. *SERINUS SHARPEI*. Sharpe's Canary.

*Serinus sharpei* Neum.

Iris brown ; bill yellowish ; feet brown.

Sharpe's Canary was very common at Kallima Theki in the low bushes round our camp. It has rather a pretty little song and is a conspicuous bird when sitting at the top of a small bush in the early morning.



33. *SERINUS AFFINIS*. Streaked-brown Canary.*Serinus affinis* Richmond.

Iris brown; bill and feet brown.

A female of this species was obtained at Naivasha on March 14th. I believe it is supposed to be rather a common bird there, but, so far as I know, I never saw another example.

34. *SERINUS FAGANI*. Fagan's Canary.*Serinus fagani* Sharpe.

Iris brown; bill and legs dusky black.

Fagan's Canary seemed to be distributed everywhere. Specimens were obtained at the Athi River and on the Kapiti Plains. They were generally seen in pairs or small flocks on the dried-up grassy plains.

35. *EMBERIZA FLAVIVENTRIS*. Golden-breasted Bunting.*Emberiza flaviventris* (Bonn. & V.).

Iris brown; bill dark brown; legs brown.

We found the Golden-breasted Bunting at Bondoni on March 4th; it was not very common and was invariably seen amongst wooded country, generally perching on stones and rocks in preference to boughs.

36. *FRINGILLARIA TAHAPISI*. Rock-Bunting.*Fringillaria tahapisi* (Smith).

Iris brown; bill and legs brown.

I found the Rock-Bunting fairly abundant on the Athi Plains, but never very far from water: it was generally quite tame and fearless.

37. *PYRRHULAUDA LEUCOPARIA*. Fischer's Sparrow-Lark.*Pyrrhulauda leucoparia* Fischer & Reichen.

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark was only seen near the Athi River in February: it was generally in pairs and was often observed in the evenings sitting near some track or on the sandy plain, perhaps a mile from the river.

38. *MIRAFRA ATHI*. Athi Lark.*Mirafra athi* Hartert.

Iris yellow, in immature birds brown; bill and feet brown.

The Athi Lark was obtained near the Athi River, at Naivasha and on the Kapiti Plains: at the latter place it was extremely abundant and a long series was obtained. It was a conspicuous bird all over the plains round Kallima Theki and Kapiti. At the beginning of April a nest was found. This was placed in a slight depression of the ground, partially concealed by a tuft of grass, and was made of pieces of dead grass. It contained four young, apparently only a few days old, one of which I took and skinned.

39. *MIRAFRA ALBICAUDA*. White-tailed Lark.

*Mirafra albicauda* Reichen.

Iris hazel; bill dusky; feet brown.

Only one specimen of the White-tailed Lark was obtained, and this was shot at Kallima Theki on April 8th; I believe it is distributed fairly commonly over the Kapiti Plains, and probably I overlooked it.

40. *MIRAFRA FISCHERI*. Fischer's Bush-Lark.

*Mirafra fischeri* Reichen.

Iris brown; upper mandible dark horn-coloured, lower light brown; legs brown.

Fischer's Bush-Lark was commonly distributed. It was always heard in the early morning, when its extraordinary rattle-like note was very audible. It flies up from the ground and ascends into the air to a great height, frequently out of sight, all the time uttering its muffled rattle; it then suddenly descends almost to the ground and swerves off for a considerable distance before alighting.

41. *MACRONYX CROCEUS*. Yellow-breasted Lark.

*Macronyx croceus* (Vieill.).

The Yellow-breasted Lark was extremely abundant all round Kallima Theki. It was generally seen in pairs and was very tame and confiding, flying up from the ground and perching on the topmost twig of a small tree or bush, when its bright yellow breast was very conspicuous, and it continually uttered its short pleasant song.

42. *MACRONYX WINTONI*. Red-breasted Long-claw.*Macronyx wintoni* Sharpe.

Iris brown ; bill and legs brown.

A single female Red-breasted Long-claw was obtained on April 17th near the camp at Kallima Theki. I do not think that it can be a very common species, as such a conspicuous bird would not be easily overlooked.

43. *ANTHUS SORDIDUS*. Brown Pipit.*Anthus sordidus* Rüpp.

Iris brown ; bill and legs brown.

Specimens of the Brown Pipit were obtained on the Kapiti Plains, where it was not uncommon.

44. *ANTHUS RUFULUS*. Indian Pipit.*Anthus rufulus* (V.).

Iris brown ; bill brown ; legs yellowish.

An extremely abundant species all over the Kapiti Plains.

45. *ANTHUS TENELLUS*. Yellow-breasted Pipit.*Anthus tenellus* (Cab.).

Iris and bill dark brown.

The Yellow-breasted Pipit is a rare bird and was only seen on one occasion, when a male in full plumage was shot near the Gerei River. It was by itself amongst the small scrub which fringes the river, and a thorough search revealed no sign of another. It probably has much the same habits as *Anthus rufulus*.

46. *ANTHUS CERVINUS*. Red-throated Pipit.*Anthus cervinus* (Pall.).

Iris brown ; bill and legs dark brown.

This is another species of which only one specimen was obtained, whether from our overlooking the birds or from their scarcity I am unable to say.

A female was shot at Ol Donyo Sambuk on January 28th.

47. *MOTACILLA FLAVA*. Black-headed Yellow Wagtail.*Motacilla flava* Linn.

Iris brown ; bill and legs black.

This species was abundant everywhere.



48. NECTARINIA KILIMENSIS. Kilimanjaro Bronze Sunbird.

*Nectarinia kilimensis* Shelley.

Iris brown ; bill and legs black.

I found the Kilimanjaro Bronze Sunbird in most of the localities we visited : at Naivasha it was common and four males and two females were obtained.

49. NECTARINIA REICHENOWI. Reichenow's Sunbird.

*Nectarinia reichenowi* Shelley.

Reichenow's Sunbird was obtained among the native shambas near Kallima Theki : it was not at all uncommon there in April, and appeared to be greatly attracted by a purple flowering plant of the Pea tribe ; none of the males obtained were in full plumage.

50. NECTARINIA JACKSONI. Jackson's Sunbird.

*Nectarinia jacksoni* Neumann.

Iris brown ; bill and legs black.

A pair of Jackson's Sunbirds were obtained at Naivasha on March 4th, but I saw the species nowhere else.

51. CINNYRIS MICRORHYNCHUS. East-African Bifasciated Sunbird.

*Cinnyris microrhynchus* Shelley.

Iris brown ; bill and legs black.

This species was seen at Theki and specimens were shot on the hill behind our camp, where they were constantly attracted by a species of aloe and would run up and down its branches hunting for insects. I never saw the bird feeding at any of the numerous flowering shrubs which abounded at Theki, and upon which the other species of Sunbirds were often seen.

52. CINNYRIS ÆQUATORIALIS. Scarlet-chested Sunbird.

*Cinnyris æquatorialis* Reichen.

We found the Scarlet-chested Sunbird fairly distributed wherever we went.

## 53. CINNYRIS KIRKI. Eastern Amethyst Sunbird.

*Cinnyris kirkii* Shelley.

The Eastern Amethyst Sunbird was generally seen among thick bush and was not very common. I obtained it at Kibwezi and in the Native Reserve near Kallina Theki.

## 54. CINNYRIS FALKENSTEINI. Falkenstein's Buff-breasted Sunbird.

*Cinnyris falkensteini* Fischer.

Iris brown ; bill and legs black.

Two males in immature plumage were shot at Naivasha, and this species was also obtained at Kapiti Plains.

## 55. ANTHOTHREPTES ZAMBESIANA. Zambesi Collared Sunbird.

*Anthothreptes zambesiana* Sharpe.

The Zambesi Collared Sunbird was obtained at Kibwezi, where we saw several individuals crawling about the long creepers which hang from the tall trees, in their ceaseless search for the small insects which form their food, and paying no attention to the white blossom-covered acacia-trees which were then in full flower and which were a great attraction to other Sunbirds.

## 56. PARUS ALBIVENTRIS. White-breasted Tit.

*Parus albiventris* Shelley.

Specimens were obtained from Naivasha and Kapiti Plains.

## 57. LANIUS HUMERALIS. Eastern Fiskal Shrike.

*Lanius humeralis* Stanl.

Iris brown ; bill and feet black.

We saw this extremely common bird wherever we went.

## 58. LANIUS CAUDATUS. Long-tailed Shrike.

*Lanius caudatus* Cab.

We generally found the Long-tailed Shrike not uncommon in bush-country. Specimens were obtained at Nairobi, Thika River, and at Kapiti. It was generally seen in pairs, but was shy and not easily approached. I several times

watched one as it sat on the outside branch of a tree, and from this elevated post made repeated flights, like a Drongo or Flycatcher, at some passing insect. On three different occasions I found dead lizards impaled on thorns; this may have been done by this or by the previous species, but *L. caudatus* was seen to fly from one bush on which lizards were impaled.

59. LANIUS MINOR. Lesser Grey Shrike.

*Lanius minor* Gm.

Bill and feet black.

A common bird, of which I shot specimens at Kallima Theki and elsewhere.

60. LANIUS COLLURIO. Red-backed Shrike.

*Lanius collurio* L.

I never saw the Red-backed Shrike anywhere until March 31st, when a large north-going migration appeared at Kallima Theki, and for a week it was an extremely abundant species. After this all the birds disappeared as suddenly as they came, and, except for a few belated stragglers, I did not see the species again.

61. LANIUS PHÆNICUROIDES. Rufous-tailed Shrike.

*Lanius phænicuroides* Severtz.

Iris brown; bill and legs black.

This Shrike appeared to be common amongst the thick bush near the Athi. Specimens were also obtained near the Thika River, but I have no note of having observed it at Naivasha.

62. EUROCEPHALUS ANGUITIMENS. Smith's Wood-Shrike.

*Eurocephalus anguitimens* Smith.

Iris brown; bill and legs black.

A single specimen of Smith's Wood-Shrike was shot at Kibwezi on April 8th. It proved to be a male, and was the only one I got, though I saw the species again at Bondoni. I do not think that it is rare, but many of the Wood-Shrikes are such adepts at concealing themselves in the thick bush, that it is difficult to say to what extent they are distributed.



## 63. NILAUS MINOR. Lesser Bush-Shrike.

*Nilaus minor* Sharpe.

Iris brown ; bill very dark slate-blue ; legs slate-coloured.

The Lesser Bush-Shrike was very shy and not often seen. Specimens were obtained at the Thika River and at Kibwezi.

## 64. TELEPHONUS SENEGALENSIS. Red-winged Bush-Shrike.

*Telephonus senegalensis* Shelley.

Iris brown ; bill black ; legs slate-coloured.

Specimens of the Red-winged Bush-Shrike were obtained near the Athi River. It was always found amongst the densest underwood and jungle, and, if I managed to flush it, would fly with two or three harsh metallic notes to the nearest available cover. One which I shot had in its bill a very large red beetle.

## 65. DRYOSCOPIUS FUNEBRIS. Slate-backed Bush-Shrike.

*Dryoscopus funebris* Reichen.

Iris brown ; bill and legs black.

This species was obtained only at Kibwezi. Its deep note, like the sound of a Jew's harp, was there heard from the thick *Euphorbia*-bush.

## 66. DRYOSCOPIUS ÆTHIOPICUS. Ethiopian Bush-Shrike.

*Dryoscopus aethiopicus* (Gmel.).

Amongst all the sounds in the bush, nothing is more striking than the note of the Ethiopian Bush-Shrike. It is one of the most conspicuous and attractive to be heard anywhere, being full, round, metallic, and bell-like, in two cadences. The male bird always calls first, and is so quickly answered by the female that the hearer might suppose that all the notes were uttered by the same bird. This was a common species wherever we went in East Africa.

## 67. DRYOSCOPIUS SUAHELICUS. Puff-backed Bush-Shrike.

*Dryoscopus suahelicus* Neum.

Iris red ; bill black.

A single female was shot at Nairobi.

## 68. CRATEROPUS HYPOLEUCUS. White-bellied Babbler.

*Crateropus hypoleucus* Cab.

The White-bellied Babbler was common at Kallima Theki and was always seen in large family parties, frequenting the low bushes and trees in the dry dongas. When disturbed, the birds will fly one after the other from tree to tree, following each other almost in single file. They were very noisy, and one which I kept alive for some weeks in a cage would commence a kind of discordant chuckling at daybreak, which it kept up throughout the day. I fed this bird on caterpillars and insects, and I believe that if it had not been rather heavily shot in the wing it would have lived, as it became perfectly tame and confiding.

## 69. PYCNONOTUS LAYARDI. Black-capped Bulbul.

*Pycnonotus layardi* Gurney.

Iris brown; bill and legs black.

Abundant everywhere.

## 70. CHLOROCICHLA MOMBASÆ. Mombasa Bulbul.

*Chlorocichla mombasæ* Shelley.

The Mombasa Bulbul, in my experience, was a rare bird, and only one female was shot at Kibwezi, on April 7th.

## 71. PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS. Willow-Wren.

*Phylloscopus trochilus* (Linn.).

## 72. HYPOLAIS PALLIDA. Olivaceous Tree-Warbler.

*Hypolais pallida* (H. & E.).

Iris brown; bill and legs dark brown.

The Olivaceous Tree-Warbler was very common everywhere.

## 73. ACROCEPHALUS PHRAGMITIS. Sedge-Warbler.

*Acrocephalus phragmitis* (Bechst.).

This species was shot at the Gerei River and Kallima Theki, but I did not see it at Naivasha.

## 74. SYLVIELLA JACKSONI. Jackson's Bush-Warbler.

*Sylviella jacksoni* Sharpe.

Jackson's Bush-Warbler was not often seen and only in the thickest scrub.

## 75. APALIS NEGLECTUS. Alexander's Bush-Warbler.

*Apalis neglectus* (Alexander).

A single male of this species was shot at Ol-Donyo-Erok on April 15th; it was a solitary bird and was seen creeping about in the tall grass.

## 76. CAMAROPTERA CHRYSOCNEMIS. Abyssinian Green-backed Bush-Warbler.

*Camaroptera chrysocnemis* (Licht.).

Bill blackish; feet and legs dull red.

Apparently not uncommon near Nairobi and thence along the Athi River; specimens were also obtained near Kallima Theki.

## 77. CALAMOCICHLA JACKSONI.

Only one specimen was obtained, at Naivasha.

## 78. CALAMONASTES SIMPLEX. Brown Bush-Warbler.

*Calamonastes simplex* Heugl.

The Brown Bush-Warbler was obtained singly in a good many places, though I never found it very common anywhere.

## 79. PHYLLOLAIS PULCHELLA. Hinde's Bush-Warbler.

*Phyllolais pulchella* Hartl.

Bill yellowish; legs brown.

Only two specimens of Hinde's Bush-Warbler were shot—both in the scrub near the Ol Gerei River.

## 80. PRINIA MYSTACEA. Tawny-flanked Grass-Warbler.

*Prinia mystacea* Rüpp.

Iris light brown; bill and legs brown.

## 81. CISTICOLA CURVIROSTRIS. Brown Fantail-Warbler.

*Cisticola curvirostris* Sharpe.

Iris dark hazel; bill yellowish; legs light brown.

This common species was seen everywhere.

## 82. CISTICOLA NUCHALIS. Reichenow's Fantail-Warbler.

*Cisticola nuchalis* Reichenow.

At Kallima Theki, where this species was not uncommon,



two or three pairs were always hopping about in the bushes close to our tents and were absurdly tame; on one occasion a little Warbler, which I think was of this species, flew to a gauze cage in which were some small lizards, and, clinging to the side, endeavoured to get at the flies which I had put in for the lizards to feed on. They had, no doubt, seen them from the bush close by.

83. *CISTICOLA STRANGII*. Strange's Fantail-Warbler.

*Cisticola strangei* Sharpe.

Bill light brown; legs light brown.

Abundant everywhere.

84. *CISTICOLA HINDII*. Hinde's Fantail-Warbler.

*Cisticola hindei* Sharpe.

Hinde's Fantail-Warbler was widespread and frequented the long grass in the more open country. It has a fairly strong flight and a very distinctive sharp note.

85. *CISTICOLA RUFA*. Fraser's Grass-Warbler.

*Cisticola rufa* (Hartl.).

Fraser's Grass-Warbler was rather rare, and only two examples were shot.

86. *MELOCICHLA ORIENTALIS*. Sharpe's Large Grass-Warbler.

*Melocichla orientalis* Sharpe.

I suspect that Sharpe's Large Grass-Warbler is commoner than I thought, but I only identified it twice, and it is represented in the collection by a single example which was found caught in one of my small mouse-traps at Theki. I was seldom able to identify any of the smaller Warblers until I returned to England, and it was difficult to take any notes of the habits of a bird when I did not know whether I had seen it previously or not, and equally difficult, when so many species are much alike, to know whether I had got a specimen before—as, owing to our being continually on the move, every skin had to be packed up directly it was dried.

87. ERITHACUS GUTTURALIS. White-throated Robin.

*Erithacus gutturalis* (Guérin).

Iris brown; bill and legs black.

The White-throated Robin was not often noticed owing to its shy retiring habits; it was always seen creeping about in the thickly-tangled undergrowth of the small ravines and dongas. Two males and a female were shot at Kallima Theki.

88. MYRMECOCICHLA CRYPTOLEUCA. Mountain Chat.

*Myrmecocichla cryptoleuca* Sharpe.

The Mountain Chat was a conspicuous bird at Naivasha, where it was very common, generally in pairs, on the rough ground at the east side of the lake; they were tame and fearless, and had a rapid flight, but never went far at a time.

89. PRATINCOLA AXILLARIS. West-African Stonechat.

*Pratincola axillaris* Shelley.

Iris brown; bill and legs black.

The West-African Stonechat was only obtained at Naivasha.

90. MONTICOLA SAXATILIS. Rock-Thrush.

*Monticola saxatilis* (Linn.).

Iris brown; bill and legs black.

The Rock-Thrush was common at Kallima Theki.

91. MONTICOLA RUFOCINEREUS. Abyssinian Rock-Thrush.

*Monticola rufocinereus* (Rüpp.).

A female was shot at Naivasha on March 9th.

92. SAXICOLA SCHALOWI. Schalow's Wheatear.

*Saxicola schalowi* Fischer & Reichen.

I only met with this Chat at Naivasha, where it was the commonest species of Wheatear and always to be found perched conspicuously on a stone or rock, restlessly opening and shutting its wings and flirting its tail or alternately raising and depressing its whole body.

## 93. SAXICOLA MORIO. Siberian Pied Chat.

*Saxicola morio* Hempr. & Ehr.

The Siberian Pied Chat was not an uncommon species in the open bush near the Athi River, and wherever a bit of ground had been burnt by a forest fire we were sure to see several individuals. It was always very shy and difficult to approach, not flying far at a time, but just keeping out of gunshot.

## 94. THAMNOLÆA SUBRUFIPENNIS. White-shouldered Bush-Chat.

*Thamnolæa subrufipennis* Reichen.

Iris brown; bill and legs black.

A pair of White-shouldered Bush-Chats were breeding in the cleft of a rock on the side of a bushy kopje near Kallima Theki. I was unable to get down to the nest, but I repeatedly saw both male and female birds fly into the hole, and on one occasion the female carried in a small grub in her beak: so no doubt there were young ones.

It had a very sweet song, and the cock-bird would sit on a projecting rock above the nest singing beautifully; but it was very shy, and if I made the slightest movement would at once dive off into the thick foliage below.

## 95. COSSYPHA HEUGLINI. Von Heuglin's Chat-Thrush.

*Cossypha heuglini* Hartl.

Von Heuglin's Chat-Thrush was sparingly met with along the Athi River, but was very difficult to procure owing to its shy retiring habits and the thick undergrowth in which it lives. Occasionally I came upon it scratching for insects in the open ground, whence it would immediately fly to the nearest cover.

## 96. COSSYPHA IOLÆMA. East-African Chat-Thrush.

*Cossypha iolæma* Reichen.

Only obtained once on Kapiti Plains, on March 26th.

## 97. ERYTHROPYGIA BRUNNEICEPS. Brown-headed Chat-Thrush.

*Erythropygia brunneiceps* Reichen.

Iris brown; bill and legs dusky.



The Brown-headed Chat-Thrush was a common species at Kallima Theki, and a long series, which shewed a considerable amount of variation, was obtained.

98. BRADYORNIS PUMILIO. Grey Robin-Shrike.

*Bradyornis pumilio* Sharpe.

Iris brown; bill and legs black.

A secretive, lurking bird, always difficult to obtain, of which only two examples were shot, both at Kallima Theki.

99. BRADYORNIS GRISEA.

*Bradyornis grisea* Reichen.

Examples of this common bird were obtained on the Athi River and at Kapiti.

100. BRADYORNIS ATER. Black Flycatcher.

*Bradyornis ater* Sundev.

Bill and legs black.

Widely distributed, but in my experience an uncommon species.

101. DIOPTRORNIS FISCHERI. Fischer's Robin-Shrike.

*Dioptrornis fischeri* Fischer & Reichen.

Iris brown; bill horn-blue; feet black.

Fischer's Robin-Shrike was fairly common wherever we went, in suitable localities.

102. BATIS PUELLA. Sylph-like Flycatcher.

*Batis puella* Reichen.

Bill and legs black.

This Flycatcher was seen amongst the tops of the tall trees. It had a harsh, rather discordant little song, and seemed to be of a quarrelsome disposition, as I saw it fly out and attack another of its own species, almost in the same way as a Drongo or Shrike would.

103. TERPSIPHONE SUAHELICA. East-African Paradise Flycatcher.

*Terpsiphone perspicillata suahelica* Reichen.

Iris brown, eyelids blue; bill and legs slate-coloured.

The Paradise Flycatcher was generally obtained amongst high trees and always in the vicinity of water.

## 104. MUSCICAPA GRISOLA. Spotted Flycatcher.

*Muscicapa grisola* Linn.

A common species everywhere.

## 105. BUCHANGA ASSIMILIS. African Drongo.

*Buchanga assimilis* (Bechst.).

Iris red ; bill and legs black.

We generally saw the Drongo in open forest-country, but except by the Thika River it was rather scarce. It was always conspicuous, sitting at the end of a dead bough, from which it would make short flights to catch the passing insects, and return immediately to its perch ; it has a harsh rather grating note.

## 106. COTILE PALUDICOLA. South-African Sand-Martin.

*Cotile paludicola* Tristr.

Iris brown ; bill dark brown ; feet light brown.

Common at Naivasha, where it was breeding in the rocky cliffs on the east side of the Lake ; also obtained at the Gerei River.

## 107. HIRUNDO RUSTICA. Common Swallow.

*Hirundo rustica* Linn.

Large flocks of *H. rustica* appeared on the Kapiti Plains in the fourth week of March, all on northward migration.

## 108. HIRUNDO PUELLA. Smaller Stripe-breasted Swallow.

*Hirundo puella* Temm. & Sch.

The Smaller Stripe-breasted Swallow was not uncommon at two or three of our camps on the Athi.

## 109. HIRUNDO EMINI. Emin's Swallow.

*Hirundo emini* Reichen.

Iris brown ; bill and legs black.

This fine Swallow was common at Naivasha, where it was breeding under the eaves of the hotel, though on March 14th none of the nests contained eggs. At Kallima Theki in the middle of April a pair were building in the kitchen at Sir Alfred Pease's house, and were quite undisturbed by the constant coming and going. I shot one at a little rain-pool

in the middle of the flat Kapiti Plains, which had its mouth full of soft mud; it must have been fully seven miles away from any possible breeding-place, and the rate of flight must be very rapid to have enabled this bird to reach its nest before the mud it was carrying had become too hard to use.

110. *PTYONOPROGNE RUFIGULA*. Fischer's Rock-Martin.

*Ptyonoprogne rufigula* (Salvad.).

This species was only seen at Kapiti, where great numbers were breeding on ledges in caves, but none of the nests I was able to reach had eggs on April 17th.

111. *PSALIDOPROCNE MASSAICA*. Masai Rough-winged Swallow.

*Psalidoprocne massaica* Neumann.

Iris brown; bill black; legs brown.

The Masai Rough-winged Swallow was a rare bird, and the only place where I met with it was in a little open glade amidst thick forest near the Thika. At this spot a number of these little Swallows were flying backwards and forwards, and three or four were shot, but it was difficult to avoid damaging them as they are very delicate. We camped not very far from this locality, and on going back to the little clearing the following day I found the Swallows still hawking backwards and forwards and yet not a trace of one to be seen anywhere else. There must have been a very large and unlimited supply of insects just there.

112. *PSALIDOPROCNE ALBICEPS*. White-headed Rough-winged Swallow.

*Psalidoprocne albiceps* Sclater.

This is supposed to be a scarce species in East Africa, but I found it rather commonly distributed, and examples were obtained at the Thika, Kallima Theki, and Bondoni. It was seen singly and in small flocks.

113. *UPUPA AFRICANA*. South-African Hoopoe.

*Upupa africana* Bechst.

Iris brown; bill dark brown or black; legs black.



114. *IRRISOR ERYTHORHYNCHUS*. Red-billed Wood-Hoopoe.

*Irrisor erythrorhynchus* (Lath.).

Iris brown; bill red; feet coral-red.

The Red-billed Wood-Hoopoes are not particularly shy birds and I was twice able to watch them hunting for caterpillars and insects on the trunk and boughs of a large tree. They run up and down the stem exactly like a Woodpecker does, occasionally head downwards, and every now and then give a kind of jump upwards, using the tail as a means of support, but not their wings; possibly this is the reason why nearly all those we shot had ragged tails. We used to see them in flocks of from six to eight, or less, and when leaving a tree they hardly ever all fly off together, but generally singly. They are very noisy birds, which chatter loudly, and are said to possess a very disagreeable smell, but I never detected anything the least unpleasant.

115. *RHINOPOMASTUS CABANISI*. Cabanis's Wood-Hoopoe.

*Rhinopomastus cabanisi* de Fil.

Iris brown; bill yellow, tip black; legs black.

Cabanis's Wood-Hoopoe was a rare bird and only seen on one occasion, when one was shot out of a little flock of four which flew out of a tree near the Gerei River; the remaining three were very shy and would not let me approach within gunshot again; it has an undulating dipping flight like a Bee-eater, and the flock that I pursued were silent.

116. *CYPSELUS AFFINIS*. White-rumped Swift.

*Cypselus affinis* Bocage.

Bill and legs black.

The White-rumped Swift was found breeding on the precipices of Longonot, near Naivasha, in company with *C. æquatorialis*. Their nests, which I was able to look into with my glasses but not to reach, were apparently made almost entirely of saliva; at any rate they look distinctly semitransparent and as if they were made out of horn; they were lined with feathers and I certainly saw eggs in two

instances. Four or five nests were built touching each other under a projecting bit of rock, and a few feet away would be a cluster of three or four more.

117. *CYPSELUS ÆQUATORIALIS*. Great Equatorial Swift.

*Cypselus æquatorialis* Müll.

The Great Equatorial Swifts were very abundant on one cliff at Longonot, where they were breeding in company with the previous species, *C. affinis*, but higher up the precipice, and I was not able to see any of their nests. They fly exceedingly rapidly, and having very tough skins are hard to kill. The wing-measurements of my specimens were 8·1 inches.

118. *CAPRIMULGUS FOSSII*. Mozambique Nightjar.

*Caprimulgus fossii* Hartert.

Iris brown ; bill black ; legs dark brown.

The Mozambique Nightjar was abundant round Lake Naivasha, but was not met with anywhere else.

119. *CAPRIMULGUS FRENATUS*. Salvadori's Nightjar.

*Caprimulgus frenatus* Salvad.

A male specimen of Salvadori's Nightjar was shot one evening flying round our tents at a camp on the Athi, and the following day a pair of Nightjars, which I believe to have been of this species, got up at my feet, but I was unable to shoot them as I was just going to fire at a Waterbuck after a long and critical stalk.

120. *CAPRIMULGUS EUROPÆUS*. European Nightjar.

*Caprimulgus europæus* Linn.

This species was abundant on Kapiti Plains.

121. *CAPRIMULGUS LENTIGINOSUS*. Freckled Nightjar.

*Caprimulgus lentiginosus* Smith.

Bill and legs dark brown.

This large Nightjar was observed in the thick brushwood by the Thika River, but it was not very plentiful.

122. CAPRIMULGUS INORNATUS. Plain Nightjar.

*Caprimulgus inornatus* Heugl.

A pair of these birds were shot at Kallima Theki on March 31st. They got up from some scrubby open ground and I hoped that I might find the eggs, but a close search revealed no sign of them. They look very small on the wing and of quite a bright red colour.

123. CORACIAS GARRULUS. European Roller.

*Coracias garrulus* L.

Iris brown; bill black; legs yellowish.

During a large prairie-fire on the Kauti Plains great numbers of Rollers were attracted by the thousands of disturbed insects, and together with innumerable Harriers, Kestrels, and Bee-eaters flew in and out of the flames to catch the prey. Otherwise we did not see this species very frequently.

124. MEROPS APIASTER. European Bee-eater.

*Merops apiaster* L.

Large flocks of Bee-eaters passed over our camp one evening on the Kauti Plains, all flying in a northerly direction. Two examples were shot and proved to be *M. apiaster*. This was the only time this species was seen, so far as I know.

125. MEROPS NUBICUS. Crimson-breasted Bee-eater.

*Merops nubicus* Gmel.

Iris red; bill and legs black.

This beautiful species was obtained at Kibwezi. It appears to be distributed the whole way from the coast as far as Voi. On my journey up, I saw it in several places sitting on the telegraph-wires.

126. MELITTOPHAGUS ALBIFRONS. White-fronted Bee-eater.

*Melittophagus albifrons* (Cab. & Heine).

Iris red; bill and legs black.

White-fronted Bee-eaters were plentiful round the shores of Lake Naivasha, alighting on the tops of the reeds that

fringed the lake-side. They were extremely tame, and once I stood within three yards of one while it made short flights into the air, always returning to the same perch with, certainly twice, an insect in its beak.

127. *MELITTOPHAGUS PUSILLUS*. Little Bee-eater.

*Melittophagus pusillus* (P. L. S. Müll.).

Bill and legs black.

Fairly common.

128. *CERYLE RUDIS*. Pied Kingfisher.

*Ceryle rudis* Linn.

Iris brown ; bill and legs black.

The Pied Kingfisher was constantly seen.

129. *HALCYON SEMICÆRULEA*. African Grey-headed Kingfisher.

*Halcyon semicærulea* Rüpp.

Iris brown ; bill and feet bright red.

We often saw this Kingfisher on the Thika and Athi Rivers, but I did not notice it at Naivasha.

130. *HALCYON CHELICUTENSIS*. Striped Kingfisher.

*Halcyon chelicutensis* (Stanley).

Iris brown ; bill and legs red-brown.

The Striped Kingfisher was as often seen far away from water as near it ; when in the forest country its food is entirely of insects. It was not at all uncommon.

131. *CORYTHORNIS CYANOSTIGMA*. Malachite-crested Kingfisher.

*Corythornis cyanostigma* (Rüpp.).

Iris brown ; bill and legs bright red.

Plentiful everywhere.

132. *COLIUS LEUCOTIS*. White-eared Coly.

*Colius leucotis* Rüpp.

Iris brown ; upper mandible dark brown, lower mandible whitish ; legs red.

The White-eared Coly was common and we met with it



wherever we went. We invariably saw large family parties of from seven to twelve, and when disturbed the whole flock would fly out of a bush together. Three that were shot contained small larvæ and a beetle, which proves that they are not *entirely* fruit-eaters as some writers have said. They roost, anyhow occasionally, head downwards and always touching each other. The Masai eat them and are very adept at knocking them down with their "knob-kerries" as they fly from bush to bush; partly on this account more live Colies were brought to me by my "boys" than any other bird, and I have found them easy to keep in confinement both abroad and in England.

133. BUCORAX ABYSSINICUS. Ground-Hornbill.

*Bucorax abyssinicus* (Bodd.).

Iris brown; bill black, with red patch at base of upper mandible; wattles bright red; skin round eye and bare part of throat slaty blue; legs black.

The Abyssinian Ground-Hornbill was by no means uncommon, and was generally seen in twos and threes; at a little distance its resemblance to a Turkey-cock is very marked. The birds were very shy and difficult to approach. I never saw them perching, but several times watched them hunting for food on the ground, pecking at the earth with their strong bills; they are said to kill snakes, but I never had the good fortune to see one do so.

134. MESOPICUS PHÆOCEPHALUS. Blood-breasted Woodpecker.

*Mesopicus phæocephalus* (Swains.).

Iris brown; bill black; legs dark slate-coloured.

A female Blood-breasted Woodpecker was shot at Naivasha on February 24th; this was the only one obtained.

135. THRIPIAS NAMAQUUS. Bearded Woodpecker.

*Thripias namaquus* Fischer.

We found the Bearded Woodpecker in small numbers wherever we went.

136. INDICATOR INDICATOR. Stripe-winged Honey-Guide.  
*Indicator indicator* (Gm.).

Iris brown; bill brown; legs dark brown.

The Stripe-winged Honey-Guide was obtained at several of our camps on the Athi and also near Kibwezi. Near one of them was a tall acacia-tree in which a swarm of bees had their nest; there was always a Stripe-winged Honey-Guide near this tree, and when one bird was shot another would very soon take its place.

137. INDICATOR MINOR. Little Honey-Guide.

*Indicator minor* Steph.

Iris brown; bill and legs dark brown.

In my experience this was the scarcest of the Honey-Guides that we saw, and only one specimen was shot, a male, at a camp on the Gerei River.

138. INDICATOR MAJOR. Yellow-throated Honey-Guide.

*Indicator major* Steph.

Specimens were obtained near the Thika River and at Kallima Theki; it was not very common. I generally met with it amongst tall trees in open forest-country.

139. LYBIUS SENEX. Reichenow's White Barbet.

*Lybius senex* Rchw.

Bill and legs black.

Reichenow's White Barbet was only seen once; a male was shot, sitting on a dead tree, at Kibwezi on April 7th. I think that it is an uncommon species.

140. BARBATULA JACKSONI. Jackson's Barbet.

*Barbatula jacksoni* Sharpe.

Bill black; iris brown; feet slate-grey.

This pretty little Barbet was shot amongst some tall gum-trees near the Club at Nairobi.

141. CUCULUS CANORUS. European Cuckoo.

*Cuculus canorus* Linn.

142. CUCULUS CLAMOSUS. Black Cuckoo.

*Cuculus clamosus* Lath.

Iris brown; bill dark brown; legs yellowish.

The Black Cuckoo was seen occasionally at Kallima Theki, but it was very shy and only one example was shot; it was invariably seen amongst the small trees fringing the sides of the dongas. It has a loud harsh note.

143. *COCCYSTES JACOBINUS*. Black-and-White Cuckoo.

*Coccystes jacobinus* Cab. & Heine.

Iris dark brown; bill brown; feet black.

This was the commonest Cuckoo at Theki, and might often be seen near our camp, though it was always rather wild and unapproachable. I have no note of seeing it anywhere else.

144. *COCCYSTES CAFER*. Le Vaillant's Cuckoo.

*Coccystes cafer* Sharpe.

Iris brown; bill and legs dark brown.

Only seen twice, on the Kapiti Plains; both birds, which were females, contained the remains of caterpillars in the stomach.

145. *CENTROPUS SUPERCILIOSUS*. White-eyebrowed Lark-heeled Cuckoo.

*Centropus superciliosus* (H. & E.).

The White-eyebrowed Lark-heeled Cuckoo is only found in the dense scrub and jungle fringing the edges of rivers and lakes, amongst which it crawls about searching for food. I met with it all along the Thika and also at Naivasha; it is nowhere rare, but not very often seen on account of its skulking habits. The note is one of the most noticeable to be heard in East Africa, and sounds like water being poured out of an inverted narrow-necked bottle. These birds run at a great pace, like a Rail. I successfully brought one home alive; it was the first living specimen of *C. superciliosus* to reach England: from the day that it was caught it was perfectly tame and a most easy bird to keep, feeding voraciously on insects, fruit, sopped bread, &c. In their wild state this species is probably to a certain extent carnivorous: mine prefers a dead bird or a mouse to anything else; and the sharp, strong bill is well adapted for killing small birds. An account of my tame *Centropus* appeared in the 'Avicultural Magazine' for February 1909.

146. CORYTHAIX PORPHYREOLOPHA. Crimson-winged Plantain-eater.

*Corythaix porphyreolopha* Smith.

Iris brown ; bill and legs black.

The Crimson-winged Plantain-eater was local, but not uncommon at some of our camps. It was always met with in the larger trees, and I often heard its loud notes without seeing the bird. It was one of the most striking species that I met with ; and one of the prettiest natural-history sights I saw in East Africa was when on one occasion I watched four of them playing together in a large tree : for fully twenty minutes they chased each other, jumping from bough to bough, flirting their tails, expanding their wings, and shewing the rich crimson feathers ; all the time uttering a low, not unpleasant call-note. A party of Masai natives I met had some of their arrows adorned with the crimson primaries of this species.

147. SCHIZORHIS LEUCOGASTER. White-bellied Plantain-eater.

*Schizorhis leucogaster* (Rüpp.).

The White-bellied Plantain-eater was more commonly distributed than the last species, and it was noticed almost wherever we went, provided the country was sufficiently forest-like to contain large trees, amongst which the birds live, feeding on fruit and berries. Contrary to what most writers have said, I almost always found them singly and not in small flocks ; in fact, I never saw more than three together at a time. When sitting on a bough they keep continually raising and lowering their crest, but owing to their grey colour are very difficult to see.

148. STRIX POENSIS. African Barn-Owl.

*Strix poensis* Fraser.

Iris black ; bill whitish yellow ; claws dark grey.

The only pair of Barn-Owls seen in East Africa were a pair which were shot out of a small cave at Bondoni.



149. PHASMOPTYNX CAPENSIS. African Short-eared Owl.

*Phasmoptynx capensis* Kaup.

Bill and claws very dark grey.

On the Kauti Plains this Short-eared Owl was rather common, and we used to put it up out of the thin grass when riding or walking across the flats; it was never seen perching on a tree. We did not find this species anywhere else.

150. BUBO LACTEUS. Verreaux's Eagle-Owl.

*Bubo lacteus* Temm.

Iris brown; bill light greenish-grey; feet white.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl was not uncommon, and generally seen by the sides of rivers amongst the tall trees. One day we saw three Egyptian Kites mobbing one in a tree.

151. BUBO CINERACEUS. Cineraceous Eagle-Owl.

*Bubo cineraceus* Guér.

Bill and claws black.

This species was very common in the thickly wooded dongas round Theki. I put five out of one small tree.

152. SCOPS CAPENSIS. Cape Scops Owl.

*Scops capensis* Smith.

Iris bright yellow; bill light grey; claws dark grey.

This species was only seen once. A female was shot, sitting on the exposed bough of a tree in broad sunlight, near the Athi River, on February 3rd. It was very small, and I hoped would prove to be *Scops ugandæ*; however, it was *S. capensis*, and was the only example of the species which we got.

153. FALCO BIARMICUS. African Lanner.

*Falco biarmicus* Temm.

Iris light brown; bill yellow at base, tip blue; feet yellow.

The African Lanner was not uncommon, but very shy, and seldom came within gunshot. Three examples were obtained at Kallima Theki: two old males and an immature female.

154. *FALCO CUVIERI*. Cuvier's Falcon.

*Fulco cuvieri* Smith.

Iris brown; bill dark slate-coloured; legs yellow.

Cuvier's Falcon was decidedly rare. A female was shot as it flew high over the Hotel garden at Nairobi, but the species was never seen again.

155. *TINNUNCULUS ALAUDARIUS*. Common Kestrel.

*Tinnunculus alaudarius* Linn.

Not at all common in my experience, and only obtained at Naivasha.

156. *TINNUNCULUS CENCHRIS*. Lesser Kestrel.

*Tinnunculus cenchris* Naumann.

Iris dark brown; bill light blue, yellow at base, tip black; feet yellow.

Great numbers of Lesser Kestrels were attracted by a large prairie fire which broke out near our camp on the Kauti Plains, and it was extraordinary to watch them flying repeatedly through the dense clouds of smoke right into the flames in order to catch the insects. They were common elsewhere.

157. *HALIAËTUS VOCIFER*. Vociferous Sea-Eagle.

*Haliaëtus vocifer* (Daud.).

Iris yellow-brown; bill black, yellow at base; legs whitish-yellow.

The Vociferous Sea-Eagle was common at Naivasha, and was also constantly seen perched on the tops of tall trees by rivers. A nest which I believe to have belonged to this species was passed one day near the Thika. I had no opportunity of getting up to it, but from below it appeared a very large structure.

158. *HELOTARSUS ECAUDATUS*. Bateleur Eagle.

*Helotarsus ecaudatus* Gray.

Bill black; iris brown; feet coral-red.

Not uncommon near Kallima Theki.

159. BUTEO AUGUR. Augur Buzzard.

*Buteo augur* Rüpp.

Iris brown ; cere yellow ; bill black, yellow at base ; legs whitish-yellow.

A common species, but, like all the larger Hawks, of extreme wariness. A pair were breeding in a cleft in one of the precipices on the far side of Longonot.

160. MILVUS ÆGYPTIUS. Yellow-billed Kite.

*Milvus ægyptius* (Gmel.).

Iris hazel ; bill and legs yellow.

Contrary to the habits of all the other Hawks, this Kite, which was very common, was extraordinarily tame. At several of our camps on the Athi it was always soaring round or sitting on the trees near, and would even fly down to where Mr. Groves was skinning birds and pick up bits of meat at his feet.

161. MILVUS MIGRANS. Black Kite.

*Milvus migrans* Strickl.

Iris pale greyish-yellow ; bill black, yellowish at base ; feet yellow.

Certainly not obtained often, and, I think, not seen very frequently. It appeared to me to be rather rare.

162. ELANUS CÆRULEUS. Black-shouldered Kite.

*Elanus cæruleus* (Desf.).

Iris crimson ; bill black, yellow at base ; legs yellow.

Obtained at Naivasha and Kallima Theki. At the latter place it was fairly common, and two or three might often be seen sitting on the top of a tree, from which they would keep a sharp look-out all round. It was not particularly shy, and it was generally easy to get within gunshot. An individual which I tipped in the wing and kept alive for some weeks preferred insects and grasshoppers for food to birds or mice.

163. CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS. Marsh-Harrier.

*Circus æruginosus* Savign.

Iris yellow ; feet yellow ; claws black.

The Marsh-Harrier was very common at Lake Naivasha.

164. *CIRCUS MACRURUS*. Pallid Harrier.

*Circus macrurus* (S. G. Gm.).

Iris brown ; bill black ; legs yellow.

The Pallid Harrier was not infrequently seen hawking over the plains of Theki ; it was also obtained on the Kauti Plains, and is probably distributed all over East Africa.

165. *CIRCUS CINERACEUS*. Montagu's Harrier.

*Circus cineraceus* Cuv.

Iris hazel ; bill black ; legs yellow.

A common species everywhere.

166. *CIRCUS RANIVORUS*. Le Vaillant's Harrier.

*Circus ranivorus* Cuv.

Iris yellow ; feet light yellow.

Le Vaillant's Harrier was not often seen, and was rather a rare bird. A female was shot flying along a stream on the Athi Plains late one evening. The stomach contained the remains of a half-digested lizard.

167. *NEOPHRON MONACHUS*. Eared Vulture.

*Neophron monachus* Jard. & Selby.

Iris dark brown ; bill horn-coloured, greenish black at base ; feet grey-blue.

168. *PHALACROCORAX LUCIDUS*. South-African Cormorant.

*Phalacrocorax lucidus* (Licht.).

Iris green ; bill yellow and black ; legs black.

This species was very common at Lake Naivasha, and was breeding among the branches of some partly submerged trees a mile or so out in the Lake. I rowed out to this "rookery" one day, and found about sixty nests containing eggs and young birds in all stages of growth, from nestlings a day old to big feathered young ones which flopped out of the nests into the water at my approach and immediately dived. The nests were large structures of sticks, and were slightly lined with a few feathers ; none of them contained more than two young, though one had three eggs. A slight "bottom" of grass and weeds had formed amongst



the trees, and I was able to get out of the boat and climb about amongst the nests. When I did so, the old Cormorants flew anxiously overhead and the young birds "cawed" loudly, while a flock of eight or ten White Egrets and some Ibises kept hovering near, furious at the invasion of their sanctuary. I believe that it has never been satisfactorily determined whether there are any fishes or not in Naivasha: none of the fish-eating birds which I shot there—*i. e.*, Herons, Cormorants, Kingfishers, and Pelicans—ever contained fishes in their stomachs, but remains of frogs, four or five species of which are very common in the Lake; and though I looked most carefully, and tried with nets and lines, I never could catch or see any sign of fish; and yet it seems inconceivable that such vast numbers of large birds should subsist entirely on frogs, neither does it seem likely that they go to another place for their food. My idea is that the fish keep to the deep pools in the middle of the lake, and so are seldom seen, and that therefore it is supposed that there are none; but it seems strange that none of the inhabitants of the locality should ever have seen one, dead or alive.

169. *PLOTUS LEVAILLANTI*. African Darter.

*Plotus levaillanti* Licht.

Iris brown; bill dusky brown; legs black.

Darters were common on the Athi and the Thika, and I had many opportunities of watching these most quaint birds. Their habit of sitting on a rock with wings extended, basking in the sun, is well known; but sometimes they lie flat down on their breasts with wings spread out, as if to get still more sun. Their flight is rather strong and very rapid; and I think that they feed almost entirely by night. On one occasion, while watching an individual sitting on a sloping rock in the river, I was much amused to see a large turtle crawl up on to the stone and, with head and neck stretched out, look most comically at the apparently unsuspecting Darter; gaining confidence, it advanced further, and literally pushed the unoffending bird off.

## 170. PELECANUS ONOCROTALUS. White Pelican.

*Pelecanus onocrotalus* Gmel.

Iris deep hazel-red; base of upper and lower mandible deep slate-coloured; sides of upper mandible light yellow with streaks of red, edge bright red, tip coral-red; pouch gamboge-yellow.

There were two or three large flocks of this Pelican on Lake Naivasha. They were extremely wary and shy, but, by hiding up in the thick papyrus-reeds near a sandbank on which they sat, I was able to bag one with a rifle. Every evening they would soar in a long straggling line to an immense height in the air. The pouch and stomach of the one which I shot were empty.

There was another smaller species of Pelican on the lake and some Flamingos; but I was not able to shoot specimens of either of them, and could not determine to what species they belonged.

## 171. LEPTOPTILUS CRUMENIFERUS. African Marabout.

*Leptoptilus crumeniferus* Lath.

Bill dirty green; legs black.

It was always a source of interest to me to watch the Marabouts assembling when I had shot a beast. The first tiny black specks which appeared in the sky would generally turn out to be these great Storks; the Vultures came later. And then, again, in the evening we watched them standing like sentinels on the tops of the trees, gazing at the now whitened skeleton beneath them. The settlers shoot numbers of them for the sake of their feathers.

## 172. SCOPUS UMBRETTA. Hammerhead Stork.

*Scopus umbretta* (Gmel.).

Iris brown; bill and legs black.

A nest of this species, which we found in a small mimosa-tree at Kallima Theki, was an immense structure of sticks, measuring very nearly six feet across. Several of the Hammerheads that I shot contained in their stomachs small spotted frogs.

## 173. ARDEA PURPUREA. Purple Heron.

*Ardea purpurea* Linn.

174. ARDEA MELANOCEPHALA. Black-necked Heron.

*Ardea melanocephala* Shelley.

Iris yellow; bill black, lower mandible yellow-green; legs greenish-brown.

The Black-necked Heron was common at Naivasha.

175. ARDEA RALLOIDES. Squacco Heron.

*Ardea ralloides* Reichen.

Iris yellow; bill yellowish; legs dark green.

176. NYCTICORAX GRISEUS. Night-Heron.

*Nycticorax griseus* L.

The Night-Heron was not seen at Naivasha, but was obtained on a small stream near the Athi.

177. ARDEA PUSILLA. Red-necked Little Bittern.

*Ardea pusilla* Vieill.

Iris yellow; upper mandible black, lower mandible greenish; legs greenish-yellow.

This species is probably commoner than might be supposed, but owing to its skulking habits it is seldom seen. A female was shot at a small pool on the Athi Plains on Feb. 14th.

178. HERODIAS ALBA. Great White Heron.

*Herodias alba* Gray.

Iris yellow; bill yellow; legs greenish.

179. MESOPHOYX BRACHYRHYNCHA. Little Egret.

*Mesophoyx brachyrhyncha* Sharpe.

The Little Egret was very common at Naivasha.

180. BUBULCUS LUCIDUS. Buff-backed Heron.

*Bubulcus lucidus* (Rafinesque).

Iris yellow; bill yellowish; legs dark green.

181. BUTORIDES ATRICAPILLUS. African Black-headed Heron.

*Butorides atricapillus* (Afz.).

Iris yellow; upper mandible black, lower yellow-green; legs yellow and brown.

This little Heron was not uncommon on the small streams

near Kallima Theki, perching on the projecting roots of a tree under the river's bank, always shy and shunning observation. My great wish to bring examples of this species alive to England was not realized; the only individual that I obtained alive died in a very few days.

182. IBIS ÆTHIOPICA. Sacred Ibis.

*Ibis æthiopica* (Lath.).

Iris red-brown; bill and legs black.

The commonest species of Ibis at Naivasha.

183. HAGEDASHIA HAGEDASH. Hadadah Ibis.

*Hagedashia hagedash* Shelley.

Iris brown; upper mandible red along the top ridge, remainder and lower mandible dusky green.

We saw small parties of the Hadadah Ibis standing and feeding among the sandbanks on the Thika River. A number roosted in some tall trees near one of our camps and would return regularly each evening nearly at the same time from their feeding-grounds and with a great deal of noise settle themselves on their favourite perches for the night.

184. PLEGADIS FALCINELLUS. Glossy Ibis.

*Plegadis falcinellus* (Linn.).

The Glossy Ibis was common at Lake Naivasha, but was observed nowhere else.

185. PLATALEA ALBA. African Spoonbill.

*Platalea alba* Scop.

Iris black; bill and skin in front of face rosy-pink.

A single specimen of the African Spoonbill was shot as it flew over my head at Naivasha; it was not at all common and I never saw another on the Lake.

186. PLECTROPTERUS GAMBENSIS. Spur-winged Goose.

*Plectropterus gambensis* Steph.

Iris brown; bill pinkish; legs dusky pink.

The Spur-winged Goose was shot on the Athi and large numbers were seen at Naivasha. Its flesh is coarse and tasteless.



187. *SARCIDIORNIS AFRICANA*. Knob-billed Duck.  
*Sarcidiornis africana* Strickl.  
 Iris dark brown ; legs and feet dark plumbeous.
188. *CHENALOPEX ÆGYPTIACA*. Egyptian Goose.  
*Chenalopex ægyptiaca* (Linn.).  
 Iris yellow-brown ; bill purplish-pink ; legs light pink.
189. *ANAS UNDULATA*. Yellow-billed Teal.  
*Anas undulata* Dubois.  
 Iris brown ; bill yellow, patch on culmen black ; legs black.  
 The commonest Duck wherever we went in East Africa  
 and excellent for eating.
190. *QUERQUEDULA CIRCIA*. Garganey.  
*Querquedula circia* (Linn.).  
 Iris brown ; bill slate-coloured ; legs dusky.
191. *QUERQUEDULA HOTTENTOTTA*. Hottentot Teal.  
*Querquedula hottentotta* Smith.  
 Bill dark slate-blue ; legs black.
192. *PECILONETTA ERYTHORHYNCHA*. Crimson-billed  
 Duck.  
*Pæcilonetta erythrorhyncha* (Gmel.).  
 Iris brown ; bill purplish-pink ; legs black.  
 A fairly plentiful species at Naivasha.
193. *THALASSORNIS LEUCONOTUS*. White-backed Duck.  
*Thalassornis leuconotus* Eyt.  
 Iris dark brown ; bill dusky ; legs black.  
 The White-backed Duck was comparatively scarce at  
 Naivasha when I was there, and was very shy and difficult to  
 approach ; only two specimens were obtained.
194. *COLUMBA GUINEA*. South-African Speckled Pigeon.  
*Columba guinea* Salvad.  
 Iris orange ; bill black ; legs light red.
195. *TURTUR LUGENS*. Red-eyed Turtle-Dove.  
*Turtur lugens* (Rüpp.).  
 The Red-eyed Turtle-Dove was obtained at Kapiti, but

was not at all common. We always met with it in very dense scrub, where it was hard to see, as it was shy and quickly disappeared from view.

196. *TURTUR DAMARENSIS*. Damara Turtle-Dove.

*Turtur damarensis* Finsch.

Iris orange-brown; bill black; legs reddish.

197. *CHALCOPELIA CHALCOSPILOS*. Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove.

*Chalcopelia chalcospilos* Bp.

Iris brown; bill and legs dull red.

The Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove was not uncommon, generally near water, amongst thick forest bush.

198. *PTEROCLES GUTTURALIS*. Yellow-throated Sand-Grouse.

*Pterocles gutturalis* Smith.

Iris brown; bill and legs dark grey.

The large packs of Yellow-throated Sand-Grouse which frequented the Kapiti Plains were generally tame and allowed me to approach quite close before they got up, when they would fly a very short distance and settle again. On the Athi Plains and all along the Athi River, where no doubt they have been much shot at, they were unapproachable and wild.

199. *FRANCOLINUS HILDEBRANDTI*. Hildebrandt's Francolin.

*Francolinus hildebrandti* Cab.

Iris brown; upper mandible dusky brown, lower mandible red; feet coral-red.

Hildebrandt's Francolin was only obtained on the west side of Lake Naivasha amongst the thick scrub and rocks. It was a very shy bird and difficult to obtain, but is probably not very uncommon there, though, owing to the difficulty of flushing it, it is seldom seen. Like all the Francolins, it is a tremendous runner and trusts to its legs to escape observation.

200. *FRANCOLINUS ULUENSIS*. Ulu Francolin.

*Francolinus uluensis* Grant.

Iris brown; legs yellow.

This was the commonest of the Francolins at Kallima Theki, and reminded me very much of the English Partridge. It lives in small coveys among the long grass in the dry dongas and ravines and squats very close. One, which a native brought me alive, after three weeks of captivity, was still so wild that I could do nothing with it and had to let it go. The birds are excellent eating.

201. *FRANCOLINUS SCHUETTI*. Schuett's Francolin.

*Francolinus schuetti* Fischer.

Iris brown; bill and legs bright orange.

A single specimen of Schuett's Francolin was obtained amongst thick bush at Kapiti. It was perching on the bough of a small tree. The species was not seen again.

202. *PTERNISTES INFUSCATUS*. Cabanis's Bare-throated Francolin.

*Pternistes infuscatus* Cab.

Iris brown; bill dark brown; throat and face deep red, neck yellow; feet very dark brown.

Cabanis's Bare-throated Francolin was rather scarce by the Athi River, but at Kallima Theki it was common, and was seen in company with *F. uluensis*.

203. *NUMIDA REICHENOWI*. Common Helmeted Guinea-fowl.

204. *TURNIX HOTTENTOTTA*. South-African Hemipode.

*Turnix hottentotta* Layard.

A fairly common species, but very seldom seen, owing to the great difficulty of making it fly, for if once flushed it is almost impossible to make it take to flight again. On January 30th I walked over an old bird, which immediately fluttered off with an apparently broken wing. After a few moments' search I found a nest containing four young ones, which at once scattered in all directions. The nest was a very slight depression in the ground, merely lined with

some dead pieces of grass. The chicks were exactly like young Quails, and could not have been hatched more than a couple of days.

205. LIMNOCORAX NIGER. Black Rail.

*Limnecorax niger* (Gmel.).

Iris red; bill yellow-green; legs coral-red.

The Black Rail was very common at Naivasha, and was also obtained in a small stream at Bondoni. It is a charming little bird, easily tamed. I kept one, which had been snared by a native, alive for nearly two months, but lost it on the voyage home.

206. GALLINULA CHLOROPUS. Water-hen.

*Gallinula chloropus* Lath.

207. PORPHYRIO SMARAGDONOTUS. Green-backed Purple Gallinule.

*Porphyrio smaragdonotus* (Temm.).

Very plentiful at Naivasha. I caught three in tiny rat-traps baited with bits of meat, and brought one alive to England.

208. FULICA CRISTATA. Crested Coot.

*Fulica cristata* Gmel.

Iris red; bill slaty-blue; top of head bluish, comb red-brown; legs bluish-black.

Immense numbers of Crested Coots live in the thick belts of papyrus round Lake Naivasha.

209. BALEARICA GIBBERICEPS. Crowned Crane.

*Balearica gibbericeps* Reichen.

210. OTIS CÆRULESCENS. Blue-necked Bustard.

*Otis cærulescens* Vieill.

Iris yellow-brown; upper mandible dark brown, lower mandible yellow; legs yellowish-white.

All round Kallima Theki the Blue-necked Bustards were common in parties of four or five. They are difficult birds to flush, as they continually keep running on ahead, carrying



themselves very low in the grass and hoping thus to escape observation: they always rise singly and when they get up utter a harsh note, which sounds like "kuk-pa-wow," repeating it several times as they fly away.

211. LISSOTIS MELANOGASTER. Black-bellied Bustard.

*Lissotis melanogaster* Reichen.

Upper mandible slate-coloured, lower mandible yellowish; legs yellowish-white.

The Black-bellied Bustard was common from the Athi River across the Kauti Plains to the Thika River, but was not seen at Naivasha or at Kallima Theki.

212. EUPODOTIS KORI. The Kori Bustard or Paauw.

*Eupodotis kori* Burch.

More oftener seen than shot, the Paauw was always shy: occasionally a well-placed bullet would lay one low. The flesh is very coarse and unpalatable.

213. ŒDICNEMUS CAPENSIS. South-African Thick-knee.

*Œdicnemus capensis* Reichen.

Iris yellow; bill black, yellow at base; legs light yellow.

A fairly common species at Theki, where one day I found a single young one squatting by itself in the middle of the sandy plain: both old birds, which had evidently run ahead, got up about fifty yards away, but though I searched most carefully I could find no traces of the other young ones.

214. ŒDICNEMUS VERMICULATUS. Vermiculated Thick-knee.

*Œdicnemus vermiculatus* Cab.

Iris yellow; bill black; feet pale green.

215. CURSORIUS CHALCOPTERUS. Bronze-winged Courser.

*Cursorius chalcopterus* Reichen.

Iris brown; bill black; legs whitish pink.

Three of these rare Coursers were seen on April 12th near the Gerei River and two were shot. They were the only individuals which I saw. Perhaps later, during the rainy season, they may be commoner.

216. *PARRA AFRICANA*. African Jacana.*Parra africana* Gmel.

Iris brown; bill of a blue-slate colour; forehead and crown pale blue; legs greenish slaty.

The large African Jacana was quite common at Naivasha and was always an interesting bird to watch. On the unfrequented and little-visited west side of the Lake it was extraordinarily tame, and on several occasions I lay in the boat with two or more Jacanas within four yards of me, quite unconscious of my presence, engrossed in walking about on the water-lily leaves, which they kept continually turning over with their beaks in search of insects. They fly readily and strongly, with their long legs held straight out behind them.

217. *PARRA CAPENSIS*. Lesser African Jacana.*Parra capensis* Smith.

Iris light hazel; bill yellowish brown; legs greenish brown.

A scarce bird, of which only one example was obtained at Lake Naivasha; it probably keeps rather apart from the large Jacanas. The one shot was running about on the water-lily leaves and was quite tame.

218. *HOPLOPTERUS SPINOSUS*. Spur-winged Plover.*Hoplopterus spinosus* (Linn.).

Iris red; bill and legs black.

219. *STEPHANIBYX CORONATUS*. Crowned Lapwing.*Stephanibyx coronatus* (Bodd.).

Iris yellow; bill black, red at base.

Not uncommon on the plains near Naivasha, but shy and difficult to approach. It is very noisy, and keeps in little flocks of three or four.

220. *ÆGIALITIS PECUARIA*. Kittlitz's Sand-Plover.*Ægialitis pecuaria* Strickl.

Iris very dark brown; legs bluish black.

221. OXYECHUS TRICOLLARIS. Treble-collared Sand-Plover.

*Oxyechus tricollaris* (Vieill.).

Iris brown, eyelids scarlet; bill bluish-black; feet yellowish.

The Treble-collared Sand-Plover was mostly found in small rivers and streams, generally singly or in pairs.

222. OCHTHODROMUS ASIATICUS. Asiatic Dotterel.

*Ochthodromus asiaticus* (Pall.).

Iris brown; bill black; legs greenish grey.

The Asiatic Dotterel was very common and generally seen in large flocks. Unless it had been previously fired at, it was extraordinarily tame. Nine were killed with one shot out of a flock sitting on the ground. I kept some individuals of this species in captivity for several weeks, but was doubtful if I could bring them home, owing to their requiring such an enormous quantity of live insects; they would not touch anything else, but greedily devoured as many grasshoppers and beetles as I could give them.

223. HIMANTOPUS HIMANTOPUS. Black-winged Stilt.

*Himantopus himantopus* (Linn.).

Iris red; bill black; legs pinkish.

224. TOTANUS STAGNATILIS. Marsh-Sandpiper.

*Totanus stagnatilis* (Bechst.).

Iris brown; bill black; legs dull greenish.

Common at Naivasha.

225. TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS. Common Sandpiper.

*Tringoides hypoleucus* (Linn.).

Common on all the rivers and streams, but not observed at Naivasha.

226. RHYACOPHILUS GLAREOLA. Wood-Sandpiper.

*Rhyacophilus glareola* (Licht.).

Iris brown; bill black; legs blackish-green.

227. GALLINAGO GALLINAGO. Common Snipe.

*Gallinago gallinago* (Licht.).

A single specimen of the Common Snipe was shot at Naivasha.

228. GALLINAGO NIGRIPENNIS. Black-quilled Snipe.

*Gallinago nigropennis* Bp.

Bill dark brown ; legs greenish black.

The Black-quilled Snipe was very common at Lake Naivasha.

229. LARUS PHÆOCEPHALUS. Grey-headed Gull.

*Larus phæocephalus* Hartl.

Bill and legs crimson.

The Grey-headed Gulls were often seen flying over Lake Naivasha, and I believe that a pair were breeding in a small swamp ; but though I made a careful search, I could find neither eggs nor young. The exquisite roseate colour on the breast of this species fades quickly after it has been shot.

230. PODICIPES CRISTATUS. Great Crested Grebe.

*Podiceps cristatus* L.

Iris red.

231. PODICIPES CAPENSIS. African Little Grebe.

*Podiceps capensis* Licht.

Iris brown ; bill and legs black.

The African Little Grebe and the Great Crested Grebe were both common on Lake Naivasha.

XXVI.—*Proceedings at the Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union, 1909.*

THE Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union for this year was held at the house of the Zoological Society of London, 3 Hanover Square (by permission), on May 26th. The Chair was taken by the President, Dr. F. DuCane Godman, F.R.S.

The minutes of the meetings held on December 9th and 10th, 1908, were read and confirmed.

The following new Rule, which had been unanimously passed at the Special General Meeting held on December 10th, 1908, was submitted to the Meeting and confirmed :—